

Beam me up here, ladies and gentlemen. Russian economy is so bad they cannot buy toilet paper, but they are building missiles threatening our freedom with our dollars. This is unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back all the bureaucrats who are sitting on their brains here in Washington, D.C.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY SOLD IN RETAIL BOOKSTORES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, people would be astounded to learn in America that many public, commercial bookstores throughout the United States are allowed to sell child pornography. I am not talking about adult book stores.

I was shocked recently to learn that bookstores like Barnes and Noble and Borders are selling books that show young girls and boys completely nude in suggestive, erotic positions. These children are photographed alone or shown erotically entangled with other young children. Further, many of the captions for the pictures are sexually explicit.

Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. Child pornography feeds the sick minds of child molesters who sexually prey on defenseless children who live in our neighborhoods.

What has the Clinton administration done to protect these children? They have turned a blind eye to some of the most offensive child pornography there is. The administration has not enforced Federal obscenity laws, after promising to make this a priority.

Please join me in calling on the administration to enforce our existing Federal obscenity laws.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pass along some comments that my mother, Nancy Lampson, made to me after church just recently. She, like millions of other senior citizens, is worried about the future of Medicare and Social Security. She is afraid that it will not be there for me and my brothers and sisters.

My mother knows that saving Social Security and Medicare is not just good for retirement security for her. She knows it is also good for me, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren.

Why? Because putting aside 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security and another 15 percent for Medicare will also reduce the national debt and reduce the billions of dollars we waste each year on interest payments. Winoing down the national debt will be good for my mother's great grandchildren.

Currently, the United States of America spends nearly as much on interest payments as it does on national defense. If we wisely invest the surplus in Social Security and Medicare today, we can reduce our interest payments from 14 percent of the budget in 1999 to 2 percent in 2014.

Investing in Social Security and Medicare will not only reduce the debt but also will lower interest rates, boost the economic growth, and increase the financial security of working families. You do not have to be a Harvard economist to know that this makes good sense to the American people.

So, on behalf of my mother and the millions of Americans we represent, I urge all of you to invest in the present and the future by investing the budget surplus in Social Security and Medicare—it makes good sense for America.

OUR STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST EDUCATION

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I understand the importance of a good education and the foundation it builds for our youth. Our schools, both public and private, must establish curricula designed to challenge students and to reward classroom successes. American students, parents, and teachers must maintain the highest level of quality in the field of education.

Achieving this goal is possible when educational guidelines are drawn by parents and local school districts. It takes about 18,000 Federal and State employees to manage 780 Federal education programs in 39 Federal agencies, boards, and commissions at a cost of nearly \$100 billion annually.

It is thus not surprising that only approximately 70 cents of each dollar makes it directly to the classroom. We must do better. We must consolidate these programs and ensure that at least 95 percent of the funds are directed to the classrooms. Our students deserve the best possible education.

PUT OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE BACK IN ORDER

(Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the fiscal situation in which we find ourselves and the opportunity that we have.

For 25 years, on a bipartisan basis, this government has mismanaged its financial house, its financial matters. We have, after 25 years, the opportunity to make fundamental progress. We have the opportunity to restore the nearly \$700 billion that has been, quote-unquote, borrowed from the So-

cial Security Trust Fund. We have the opportunity to put our fiscal house back in order. If we do that, it is not only good for the government fundamentally, it is good for the people of this country.

By reducing our interest payments, by reducing the demand on the credit market, we will do great things for the American people. The average cost of a home mortgage can be reduced by \$200 a month by adhering to the financial responsibility that we have the opportunity to pass this year in the Congress. I urge my colleagues, do it this year. Fix the financial situation. We have the opportunity. Do not let it lapse.

KEEP SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to challenge the other side to a pledge, a pledge that has been notably absent from the proposals of the other side of the aisle.

The Republican plan to protect and strengthen Social Security does not raise taxes, and it does not reduce benefits. The President's plan, however, leaves that option wide open. It would not take a rocket scientist or a fortune teller to figure out what that means.

The key issues for the current and future retirees is, will my retirement be secure and will Social Security remain a good deal? Social Security, unless dramatically reformed, fails on the first question.

As for the second, Social Security is a good deal for current retirees; but, very soon, it will be a terrible deal for future retirees.

The President's proposal does nothing about that. A worker's return on investment will continue to head down if real structural reforms are not made.

Let us keep Social Security solvent and a good deal for workers when they retire.

□ 1215

LION'S SHARE OF SURPLUS SHOULD PAY DOWN FEDERAL DEBT

(Mr. DAVIS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the position advocated by the President in his budget proposal that we use the lion's share of the surplus to pay down the Federal debt. The proposal to use 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security and 15 percent for Medicare will have that effect.

We have a chance for the first time in decades to begin to bring the debt held by the public, the money the Federal Government owes to other people, down to a level that we all try to exercise in our homes and businesses. This